



For Immediate Release: Thursday, May 18, 2006

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Web Audio: http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/newsreleases/2006/unemployment/multimedia/april06_state_lmi_051806.mp3

APRIL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ANNOUNCED

Virtually every major sector gained jobs over the month

Unadjusted Data

Madison – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced that Wisconsin's unemployment rate dropped five-tenths of a percentage point in April to 5.0 percent. The number of the state's employed residents increased by 18,700 over the month to over 2.9 million, while the number of unemployed residents in the state decreased by 16,000 to a total of 152,300.

"Wisconsin's labor market continued to gain strength last month, adding 31,400 jobs over the year," Secretary Gassman said. "Business services, educational and health services, and construction posted gains over one year ago - very positive indicators that the state's economy continues to grow."

The state's labor force is 40,000 participants more compared to April 2005. The unemployment rate is one-tenth of a percentage point higher than it was April 2005.

April's preliminary nonfarm wage and salary estimates measured 2,857,900 total jobs in Wisconsin; a monthly net gain of 40,400 jobs. Virtually every major sector gained jobs over the month. In numeric terms of growth, professional and business services and construction posted the largest monthly job gains with 11,300 and 10,100 more jobs, respectively. These sectors also showed the greatest rate of growth. Construction employment increased at a monthly rate of 8.4 percent and professional and business services grew by 4.4 percent. The leisure and hospitality sector added 7,300 jobs over the month. This is the second consecutive year that the state has posted a 40,000-plus job gain from the months of March to April.

Compared to April 2005, Wisconsin added 31,400 jobs. Among the major employment sectors, education and health services grew the most with 11,900 more jobs, while leisure and hospitality has 9,500, annually. Both of the state's major goods-producing sectors also expanded employment compared to April 2005. Construction is up 6,700 jobs and manufacturing employment has a net gain of 1,000 jobs. Transportation, warehousing and utilities; financial activities; and information were major sectors that measured annual employment declines.

Adjusted Data

Wisconsin's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in April was 4.8 percent. April's rate is one-tenth of a percentage point higher than in March and two-tenths of a percent point higher compared to April 2005. The seasonally adjusted national unemployment rate was 4.7 percent in April, which was unchanged over the month and four-tenths lower than April 2005.

April employment and unemployment figures for individual counties will be available May 24, 2006. This release also is available at <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/newsreleases/>.

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WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY
In Thousands

ITEM	NET CHANGE FROM				
	PRELIM. APR 06	FINAL MAR 06	YEAR AGO APR 05	MONTH AGO	YEAR AGO
PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA	NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES				
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3054.9	3052.2	3014.9	2.7	40.0
UNEMPLOYMENT	152.3	168.3	147.0	-16.0	5.3
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	5.0	5.5	4.9	-0.5	0.1
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2902.6	2883.9	2867.9	18.7	34.7
PLACE OF WORK DATA					
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2857.9	2817.5	2826.5	40.4	31.4
TOTAL PRIVATE	2433.6	2396.5	2403.4	37.1	30.2
<i>GOODS PRODUCING</i>	637.3	625.4	629.6	11.9	7.7
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	3.8	3.3	3.8	0.5	0.0
CONSTRUCTION	130.9	120.8	124.2	10.1	6.7
MANUFACTURING	502.6	501.3	501.6	1.3	1.0
Durable Goods	317.1	315.2	316.5	1.9	0.6
Nondurable Goods	185.5	186.1	185.1	-0.6	0.4
<i>SERVICE PRODUCING</i>	2220.6	2192.1	2196.9	28.5	23.7
TRADE	428.4	425.3	427.0	3.1	1.4
Wholesale Trade	117.8	116.2	116.8	1.6	1.0
Retail Trade	310.6	309.1	310.2	1.5	0.4
TRANS., WAREHOUSE, & UTILITIES	105.7	103.9	108.3	1.8	-2.6
Utilities	11.2	11.4	11.5	-0.2	-0.3
INFORMATION	49	49	49.6	0.0	-0.6
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	157.9	157.6	158.6	0.3	-0.7
Finance and Insurance	130.1	130.2	131	-0.1	-0.9
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	27.8	27.4	27.6	0.4	0.2
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	265.3	254	261.7	11.3	3.6
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	91.6	90.2	93	1.4	-1.4
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises	41.2	41.2	40.9	0.0	0.3
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	132.5	122.6	127.8	9.9	4.7
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	394.6	392.7	382.7	1.9	11.9
Educational Services	54.4	54.5	49.2	-0.1	5.2
Health Care & Social Assistance	340.2	338.2	333.5	2.0	6.7
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	259.3	252	249.8	7.3	9.5
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	33.5	29.4	32.9	4.1	0.6
Accommodation & Food Services	225.8	222.6	216.9	3.2	8.9
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin	136.1	136.6	136.1	-0.5	0.0
GOVERNMENT	424.3	421	423.1	3.3	1.2
Federal Government	29	28.9	29.2	0.1	-0.2
State Government	108.6	107.1	105.5	1.5	3.1
Local Government	286.7	285	288.4	1.7	-1.7
PERSONS INVOLVED IN L-M DISPUTES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
(1) Includes L-M Disputes					
	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES				
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3079.6	3074.8	3036.7	4.8	42.9
UNEMPLOYMENT	147.2	143.8	140.2	3.4	7.0
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.8	4.7	4.6	0.1	0.2
EMPLOYMENT	2932.4	2931.0	2896.4	1.4	36.0

*Differences in totals may occur as a result of rounding.

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Current Employment Statistics programs, Labor Market Information Section, Bureau of Workforce Information